

What is a sex offender?

A sex offender is any person who resides or works in the Commonwealth and who has been convicted of a sex offense, or who has been adjudicated as a youthful offender or as a delinquent juvenile by reason of a sex offense, or a person released from incarceration or parole or probation supervision or custody with the department of youth services for such a conviction or adjudication, or a person who has been adjudicated a sexually dangerous person or a person released from civil commitment on or after August 1, 1981.

Sex offenders will be classified by the **Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB)** according to the degree of dangerousness they pose to the public and their likelihood for re-offense. An offender's classification will be:

- a *Level 1* or "*low risk*" offender,
- a *Level 2* or "*moderate risk*" offender, or
- a *Level 3* or "*high risk*" offender.

In addition, if the **SORB**, in finally giving an offender a Level 3 classification, also concludes that such sex offender should be designated a *Sexually Violent Predator*, the **SORB** shall transmit a report to the sentencing court explaining the **SORB's** reasons for so recommending, including specific identification of the sexually violent offense committed by such sex offender and the mental abnormality from which he suffers. *The sentencing court shall then have the ultimate decision to determine whether such sex offender is a sexually violent predator.*